SPECIFICATION AMENDMENTS

Please amend paragraph [0020] as follows:

[0020]   In one embodiment, the decoder 180 may ~~receive~~ generate initial reliability values and initial hard decision values based on the soft decision values. In one embodiment, the decoder 180 may receive initial threshold values (Ti) as well and the decoder 180 may decode the codewords using a LDPC parity check matrix (H), the initial reliability values (Ri) and the initial hard decision values (Xi). The decoder 180 may iteratively compute parity check values starting from the initial values of Ri, Xi, and Ti and may generate a new hard decision vector. The decoder 180 may terminate the iterations if the new hard decision vector represents the desired data stream or the decoder 180 may perform pre-determined number of iterations before determining to request for a re-transmission.